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ANNUAL REPORT

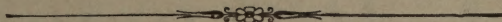
—OF THE—

TOWN OFFICERS

—OF—

WALPOLE, N. H.,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1880.



WALPOLE, N. H.:

C. C. DAVIS, PRINTER.

1880.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY

G. P. PORTER,

DEALER IN

DRY GOODS,

GROCERIES, FLOUR,

GRAIN, GRASS SEEDS,

And all goods usually kept in a country store.

Choice Groceries and Brands of
Flour may always be found here.

*Particular Attention paid to keeping a
Good Assortment of Dry Goods and Small
Wares.*

The Only Agent in Town for

W. L. BRADLEY'S

"XL"

SUPER	PHOSPHATE
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Said to be the Best Fertilizer in the
World.

WALPOLE,

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N. H.

ANNUAL REPORT

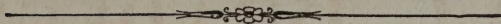
—OF THE—

TOWN OFFICERS

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WALPOLE, N. H.,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1880.



WALPOLE, N. H.:

C. C. DAVIS, PRINTER.

1880.

Report of the Selectmen.

VALUATION OF THE TOWN:

Real Estate,	\$918,907 00
535 Polls,	53,500 00
482 Horses,	32,780 00
1391 Cattle,	36,317 00
9133 Sheep,	23,983 00
Stock in banks,	29,900 00
Stock in trade,	19,150 00
Money on hand,	269,901 00
Stock in public funds,	17,460 09
Mills and Machinery,	2,900 00
Carriages,	3,515 00
Hogs,	351 00
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	\$1,408,664 00

ASSESSMENTS.

State Tax,	\$2,820 00
County Tax,	2,329 58
Town Tax,	5,652 55
School District No. 1, Tax,	500 00
School District No. 5, Tax.	32 00
School District No. 12, Tax,	100 00
Highway Tax, paid in labor	2,000 00

EXPENDITURES.

TOWN OFFICERS,

A. W. Burt, Selectman,	\$156 00
B. E. Webster, “	144 00
J. C. Brown, “	123 00
S. H. Porter, Supt. School Committee,	80 00
Wm. Brown, Supt. School Committee, No. 1,	16 00
A. P. Richardson, Town Clerk,	50 00
T. B. Buffum, Treasurer,	25 00
C. R. Crowell, Moderator,	5 00
C. B. Lucke, Collector Taxes, 1879,	100 00
	<hr/>
	\$699 00

SUPPORT OF TOWN PAUPERS.

Willard Hubbard, hay for Mrs. Stark's cow,	\$ 7 92
G. P. Porter, goods for Mrs. Stark,	23 59
E. K. Seabury, “ “ “ “	3 00
Edward Bixby, keeping poor night and day,	1 00
Mrs. John Smith, support Asa Pratt's children,	35 00
Ephraim W. Barker, house rent W. Hinds,	9 00
J. G. Bellows, aid for Herod Brown,	25 00
W. B. Clark, Coffin for H. Roger's child,	5 00
Clark Chase, coffin and robe for James Powers	16 50
Sarah Copeland, nursing Frank Copeland,	10 00
G. A. Blake, transient pauper,	5 15
	<hr/>
	\$141 16

COUNTY PAUPERS.

Amount paid during the year,	\$236 35
Amount received from County during the year, and paid to Treasurer,	283 95
Paid to Ellen Cobb since Oct. 1879, now due from County,	10 00

TOWN HOUSE.

Osgood & Barker, repairing town bell,	\$4 50
B. P. Owen, goods and repairs,	2 30
E. K. Seabury, for goods as per bill,	4 81
H. A. Willard, pine lumber,	1 50
Farwell & Bailey, insuring town house,	112 00
G. H. & E M. Holden, 1-4 M shingles,	63
	<hr/>
	\$125 74

TOWN LIBRARY.

J. G. Bellows, appropriation made 1878,	\$100 00
“ “ “ “ 1879,	100 00
R. L. Ball, care and room rent, 1879,	60 00
W. B. Porter, insurance on town library,	22 50
	<hr/>
	\$282 50

BLANK BOOKS and STATIONERY.

T. B. Buffum, stationery,	\$3 00
A. P. Richardson, “	7 55
C. C. Davis, “ and printing,	70 24
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	\$80 79

BREAKING ROADS.

James Selkirk,	11 55
Orrin Wheeler,	1 20
George D. Hooper,	9 56
O. W. Rogers,	8 70
Isaac Pratt,	15 85
Weston Moriarty,	11 40
A. N. Howe,	13 49
John Farnsworth,	1 80
H. G. Wightman,	4 95
Wm. Murray,	2 00
Haskell C. Towne,	24 15
George Jennings,	17 50
Salem Towne,	15 90
G. T. Stevens,	11 17
Andrew Roy,	16 65
E. E. Webster,	5 62
Fred W. Turner,	2 70
Alfred Watkins,	37 88
O. W. Rogers,	1 35
C. Stowell,	3 00
W. G. Buffum,	3 00
Oliver Hall,	17 55
George A. Angier, snowing Cold River bridge,	9 95
W. A. Maynard,	16 75
W. T. Ramsay,	21 63
Harding Ball,	3 30
G. B. Williams, breaking roads and damage to plow,	15 70
Warren Thompson,	6 50
Wm. Arnold,	9 75
G. D. Hooper,	1 80

 \$322 35

SHEEP KILLED BY DOGS.

Henry C. Rawson, in 1878,	\$7 00
Jonathan Putney, “	4 00
Willis C. Foster, “	4 50
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	\$15 50

HIGHWAYS AND RAILINGS.

B. F. Brown,	\$ 3 50
L. D. Pressy, 1878,	7 70
Bart. Driscoll, 1878-9,	5 33
C. Stowell,	13 90
Herbert Thompson,	14 12
Oliver Hall, in 1878,	3 00
Asa Gilbert, 1875-6-7,	2 50
I. M. Graves,	5 00
O. L. Perham,	4 00
Warren Jennison,	114 00
B. B. Royce,	11 50
Moses Elliot, new highway to Brewery & railing,	217 80
A. A. Beckwith,	45 69
Moses Elliot, for district No. 14,	13 40
A. H. & G. W. Kingsbury,	10 80
Alfred Watkins,	25 67
Charles Fisher, use of road scraper,	10 00
Charles Fisher, surveying new road,	3 00
Henry Burt, lumber,	8 00
John C. Brown,	9 25
C. W. Tole,	16 50
	<hr/>
	\$544 66

BUILDING AND REPAIRING BRIDGES.

John C. Brown, Houghton bridge,	\$ 16 50
C. Stowell, District No. 1,	35 25
Bart. Driscoll,	22 00
John Harty,	11 25
John W. Esterbrooks,	14 25
I. M. Graves, Dist. No. 9, 1878,	4 50
D. Boothe,	1 50
J. C. Brown, new bridge, Dist. No. 11,	535 00
W. G. Buffum, chestnut timber for bridge,	43 00
A. F. Nims, plank, 1878-9,	21 72
G. P. Porter, spikes and nails,	3 06
E. K. Seabury, planks and nails,	9 94
Moses Elliott, work and plank, Cold River bridge,	25 02
W. Thompson, bridge plank,	50 69
John Selkirk, lumber for bridges,	22 79
Charles Fisher, plan of bridge,	3 00
R. S. Morrison, 1000 feet bridge plank,	9 00
	<hr/>
	\$828 47

POLICE.

H. C. Podwin, 1878-9,	\$7 50
O. W. Rogers,	5 50
M. Dorney, North Walpole,	2 00
H. C. Podwin, July 3 & 4, 1879,	4 00
E. W. Barker,	3 00
	<hr/>
	\$22 00

WALPOLE AND WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.

J. C. Brown, snowing,	\$12 25
Patrick Murray, work,	12 59
T. B. Buffum, assessment,	9 02
G. P. Porter, oil and spikes,	5 28
	<hr/>
	39 14
Rec'd of Westminster, and paid to Treasurer,	13 05
Rec'd for plank,	1 00

MISCELLANEOUS.

Edwin E. Webster, bounty on foxes,	\$ 6 50
Jack Short, " " "	1 50
Lewis Dickey, wood,	8 77
Charles Gates, services as sexton, 1878,	10 00
J. C. Brown, going to Acworth for affidavit,	3 00
Frank Dunshee, bounty on foxes,	1 50
Wm. Buffum, Services as Supervisor,	9 00
J. H. Daggett, damages on highway,	1 00
S. G. Watkins, bounty on foxes,	1 00
F. P. Downing, " " "	50
E. A. Knowlton, " " hawks,	80
A. A. Graves, fence across Henry Burt's brook,	5 00
Andrew J. Fisher, special tax Dist. No. 5, 1879,	32 00
Albert Dickey, " " " No. 4, 1878,	50 00
C. B. Lucke, abatement taxes, 1878,	71 84
E. W. Barker, balance precinct tax, 1878,	35 00
B. F. Brown, special tax, District No. 12, 1879,	100 00
E. S. Bond, land damage new road to brewery,	10 00
Matthew Tole, for watering trough,	3 00
Fred Lebourveau, blacksmith's bill,	2 20
Frederick Watkins, bounty on wild animals,	6 40
W. B. Porter, " " "	5 50

Amount carried over \$364 51

Amount brought up,	\$364 51
Frank Dunshee, land damage while building new bridge,	5 00
C. S. Moore, land damage, new road to brewery,	40 00
George Aldrich, printing History of Walpole,	500 00
C. B. Lucke, abatement taxes, 1879,	47 55
“ “ discount on taxes, 1879,	365 03
W. P. Chapin, ringing town house bell, one year,	26 00
Ephraim A. Watkins, book-case for town,	4 75
Wm. March, watering trough,	3 00
Frederick Watkins, use of team & money paid out,	35 37
John Selkirk, damage on highway,	5 00
E. W. Barker, blacksmith's bill,	5 40
H. C. Rawson, land damage, new road to brewery,	10 00
R. S. Blanchard, work in cemetery,	39 70
Henry Burt, services as supervisor,	11 00
J. G. Bellows, services as attorney, 1879,	20 00
W. B. Porter, use of team and money paid out,	20 00
Jefferson Wilson, “ “ “ “ “ “	28 50
Expenses of schools, 1879,	2,976 90
Special school tax, Dist. No. 1,	500 00
T. B. Buffum, Town bonds & interest paid on same in 1879,	3,546 00
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	\$8,553 71

RECAPITULATION.

Town officers,	\$699 00
County paupers,	236 35
Town paupers,	141 16
Town house,	125 74
Town Library,	282 50
Blank books, stationery, and printing,	80 79
Sheep killed by dogs, 1878,	15 50
Breaking roads,	322 35
Highways and railings,	544 66
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$2,448 05

Amount brought up,	\$2,448 05
Building and repairing bridges,	828 47
Police,	22 00
Walpole and Westminster bridge,	39 14
Miscellaneous,	8,553 71
	<hr/>
	\$11,891 37

TOWN DEBT.

Bonds due,	\$6,000 00
Interest due on bonds,	60 00
Town officers and unpaid bills, estimated,	800 00
Floating orders,	95 62
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	\$6,955 62

ASSETS.

Taxes of 1879, uncollected,	\$1,495 58
Due from County on paupers, paid since Oct. court,	10 00
Cash on hand,	602 65
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	\$2,108 23
Present indebtedness of the town,	\$4,847 39

ESTIMATES FOR 1880.

Paupers, all classes,	\$400 00
Highways and bridges,	1,200 00
Town officers and contingent expenses,	1,450 00
Support of schools,	2,800 00
State tax,	3,064 00
County tax,	2,329 58
Bonds due in 1880,	3,000 00
Interest town debt,	360 00
Library,	160 00
	<hr/>
	\$14,763 58
Less—Savings bank and railroad tax,	1,558 05
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	\$13,205 53

All of which is respectfully submitted by

Winslow B. Porter,	} Selectmen of Walpole.
Frederic Watkins,	
Jefferson Wilson,	

REPORT OF TOWN TREASURER.

For the year Ending February 29, 1880.

RECEIPTS.

Rec'd of C. B. Lucke, Coll. taxes for 1878,	\$ 1,666 76
“ “ interest on same,	62 44
“ “ taxes for 1879,	10,549 20
“ County for paupers,	283 95
“ State, for coupons,	90 00
“ “ “ rail-road tax,	473 49
“ “ “ savings banks tax,	1,084 56
“ “ “ literary fund,	155 03
“ “ “ bounty on foxes and hawkes,	29 80
“ for state bonds sold, premium & interest,	3,477 50
“ “ circus license,	10 00
“ of the town of Westminster, on bridge acc't,	14 05
	<hr/>
	\$17,896 78

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid balance due Treasurer,	\$348 80
“ Town orders for 1879,	11,795 75
“ State tax,	2,820 00
“ County tax,	2,329 58
Cash on hand,	602 65
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	\$17,896 78

T. B. BUFFUM, Treasurer.

The undersigned committee, appointed to settle with the Selectmen and Treasurer, have examined their accounts, and find them well vouched and correctly cast.

S. H. Porter,	} Auditors.
E. K. Seabury,	
H. A. Perry,	

REPORT OF THE TOWN SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Your committee, to whom was given the supervision of the public schools of the town, for the year ending March 1st., 1880, herewith presents the annual report :

The amount of money raised by the town for the support of schools was \$2830.00 ; literary fund, \$146.89, divided the same as last year : to each district, \$ 75.00 ; the remainder was divided per capita, each scholar receiving \$3.756.

No. of District.	No. of Scholars.	Below we give the number of scholars as returned by the Selectmen, together with the amount received by each district.	
		Names of Prudential Committee.	Amounts.
1	136	A. P. Richardson, H. A. Perry, C. Davis,	\$735 90
2	120	Matthew Tole,	525 70
3	19	L. Wetherbee,	146 38
4	39	Wm. W. Guild,	221 52
5	17	A. J. Fisher,	138 87
6	6	James Selkirk,	97 54
7	7	Farnham Marsh,	101 32
8	11	E. E. Merriam,	116 33
9	17	G. D. Hooper, G. W. Graves, C. B. Hall,	138 87
10	22	C. W. Houghton,	157 66
11	13	Lyman Chickering,	123 84
12	28	C. A. Witt,	180 20
13	15	O. H. P. Watkins,	131 35
14	23	Geo. H. Angier,	161 41

SPECIAL REPORTS.

DISTRICT No. 2. The first term of eleven weeks was in charge of Miss Mary A. Clifford, who had been employed in the fall and winter of the previous year. The school made as good improvement as in the preceding terms under her supervision.

Miss Jennie F. Ball was employed sixteen weeks in the autumn. She commenced with three scholars which number increased from time to time till, at our second visit, they numbered twenty three. It was apparent that an apple of discord had been thrown into their midst. From the best information we could obtain, it seems a majority of the district wished to retain the former teacher, while others desired a change. The Prudential Committee finally determined to exercise the prerogative of his office and employ whom he pleased, regardless of priestly dictation or Celtic Bulls. The result was a private school in the vestry of the Catholic church, under the supervision of the priest, taught by Miss Clifford. We take the liberty to offer a word of advice to those who would interfere in the management of the public schools;—that it would be to their credit, to say the least, to attend to the legitimate duties of their own calling and leave the management of the schools to those appointed to look after their interests. Those who availed themselves of the advantages of Miss Ball's instruction made good improvement.

Mr. Charles Fisher, a teacher of many years' experience with whose record all are familiar, was given the charge of the school in the winter. He encountered many difficulties in the way of a successful school. There was a lack of books, two or three being compelled to use one book. This want was partially supplied.

The school commenced with twenty nine scholars. New numbers came in from the private school at different times as the term advanced, until there were forty members. It was necessary to form new classes for those as they came in, or place them in the classes formed at the beginning of the term, which must necessarily retard the progress of those classes. Mr. Fisher was indefatigable in his efforts to improve the condition of the school and he merited the approbation of both patrons and committee. The school is in session as this report goes to press; consequently the winter term will not appear in the tabular report.

The citizens of this district certainly ought to provide better accommodations for their scholars. There are one hundred and twenty that ought to attend school and a house not sufficient to accommodate one half that number. If they cannot agree to build a *new* house, provide a room in some building, fit it up for a school room and furnish it, divide the school and employ two teachers. The district draws money sufficient to pay the expenses of two schools and employ two good teachers. There are, no doubt, many in the district who are violating the laws by not sending their children to school as the law requires.

We make these suggestions neither in the form of a threat, nor in a spirit of dictation; but as a *plea* in behalf of the children, and we hope No. 2 will be aroused to a sense of its duty and do it.

DISTRICT NO. 3 Miss Flora L. Guild, who was employed in this school two terms last year, was given the charge of it again in the summer, with fourteen scholars. She fully sustained her former reputation. Though the term was short,—only seven weeks,—they made good use of the time.

The winter term comprised fourteen weeks, with sixteen scholars. It was under the instruction of Willie J. Prentiss, a native of the district, who has proved himself a

workman, skilled in the difficult and arduous task of teaching. Without any seeming effort in discipline, the government was good. The instruction was thorough and practical. The reading was excellent and showed correct training. The record of one class in Geography was perfect, not a question having been missed during the entire term. Every branch pursued was carefully and thoroughly studied. This school under the leadership of this teacher has attained to the position of one of the best in town.

We hope the services of Mr. Prentiss may be employed in town for many successive terms.

DISTRICT No. 4. The past year has been one of uninterrupted prosperity in this district. It has been in session thirty weeks, divided into three terms. The summer term was kept by Miss Sarah L. Cutter, of Keene, a graduate of the Normal School at Plymouth, and a teacher of experience. It was evident from the commencement that she was familiar with the duties of her profession; and she discharged them with skill and tact. The school was always orderly and made constant and sure progress under her careful training.

Miss Flora L. Guild, who taught the school in No. 3, in the summer, was placed in charge in the autumn. This was in her own district and among her own kinsmen, yet not without honor. She entered upon the work where the former teacher left it, and carried it steadily onward to the close of the term.

The winter term was under the instruction of Miss Sarah C. Boynton, of Brattleboro, Vt. This teacher brought to the school a valuable experience acquired in other schools. While the instruction was perspicuous and thorough, and the discipline decided and firm, it was evident that there was a reserved fund of knowledge and power of executive ability, sufficient for any emergency.

In conversation with one of the patrons of the school (an old teacher), who visited the school during the winter session, he said that he believed it was the best ever

kept in that house ; that every pupil was in order, earnestly engaged in his work ; and that they seemed to understand every motion of the teacher.

For several terms previous, this school has been losing its once enviable position. But through the judicious management and untiring efforts of faithful teachers, the standard has been raised the past year, until (taking into account the ages of the pupils) it stands as high as any in town.

DISTRICT No. 5. This school has had a successful year of twenty weeks. The summer term of eight weeks was taught by Miss Mary E. Wilder, of Keene, a graduate of the Normal School of Plymouth and also from a school at Andover, Mass. Miss Wilder is an excellent instructor and a good disciplinarian. Not confining her classes to the text books, her method of instruction was thorough and practical, and we observed her pupils understood what they learned. It was evident much good was accomplished by the oral instruction imparted in the various branches. We regret that the services of this teacher could not have been retained longer in town.

The winter term of twelve weeks was kept by Mr. Edward A. Watkins, who has had several terms' experience in other districts in town. The term ran smoothly through, to the satisfaction of all interested.

DISTRICT No. 6. The school year comprised two terms ; eight weeks in the summer and ten in the fall. Miss Alice M. Smith was given the charge of it through the year. There were only three pupils in summer and five in the fall. The members of this school are good scholars, diligent in their studies and exemplary in deportment.

The school made commendable progress. We are reported in the register with one visit during the fall term. At our second visit, we found the school not in session and the teacher out of town.

District No. 7. This district, like No. 6, had a summer and fall term. The first term was kept by Miss Jennie F. Ball, with seven scholars. She succeeded in awakening a good degree of interest, and the fruits of her labors were apparent in the orderly condition of the school and the advancement made. The fall term was commenced by Miss Emilie M. Green, of Alstead, who had taught several terms in town in former years. There were but five pupils. At the end of six weeks she left on account of ill health, without filling out the register.

District No. 8. The summer school of eight weeks was taught by Miss Nellie E. Allen, of this town. This was her first term. She entered upon the work with a desire to succeed. The school numbered twelve pupils; six belonging in the district, three from No. 13, and three from Surry. Some were without text books, others brought those unlike the books used in town. Thus the teacher encountered many obstacles.

The closing examination however showed very fair progress.

The fall term of eleven and two fifths weeks was taught by Miss Hattie M. Delahanty, of Fitchburg, Mass.

This was her first effort at teaching. She commenced her task with some trepidation as she was entering upon untried ground among strangers, yet her pleasant address and genial manners readily gained for her the love of her pupils. She evinced rare tact of holding the attention of her classes, and teaching them to think for themselves.

The closing examination gave proof that their daily lessons had been carefully studied.

A few terms' experience would place this teacher in the front rank of the teachers' corps.

DISTRICT No. 9. The length of the school year of this district was twenty-one weeks, ten in summer and eleven in winter. Miss Carrie L. Wightman was given the care of it in the summer. She entered upon her

work without experience, but with a disposition to do her whole duty. There were only six small scholars. The progress was necessarily slow. She succeeded to the entire satisfaction of parents and committee.

The winter term was under the charge of Elmer J. Slade, of this town, who went out from the High School with a good record in scholarly attainments, a young man of exemplary habits and unexceptionable character. This was his first trial at teaching. He commenced his work with too little confidence in himself—did not evince that energy and tact in discipline which is essential in some schools to produce satisfactory results. To control and bring into subjection the disturbing elements which sometimes appear in school in the shape of boys who have transformed beef and pork into one hundred and seventy-five pounds of bone and muscle, without improving the intellect, requires undaunted courage and an indomitable will on the part of the teacher. Some left about the middle of the term, others a few days before the close. Those that remained made commendable improvement.

DISTRICT NO. 10. The first term of this school, which was kept in the autumn, was in the care of Miss Emma L. Snow, of Chesterfield. This teacher is a good instructor, but unassuming in her manners. We were fearful at first she would not be equal to the task before her. But at our second visit we were glad to find that the school had sustained its former good name, and made sure and steady progress under her direction.

The winter term was in the charge of Mr. G. H. Hubbard, of Sherbrook, P. Q., a member of the Senior class in Dartmouth College. Mr. Hubbard entered upon his work without experience in our public schools, but with a disposition to do equal justice to all. He is a good scholar and his gentlemanly demeanor won the respect of his pupils and of all who made his ac-

quaintance. Had he evinced more energy in conducting the recitations, and required a little closer observance of the rules of order, the results of his labor would have been better. Fair progress was made. The school register of this district shows the best average attendance through the year of any school in town. The average is 95 per cent.

DISTRICT NO. 11. Miss Juliette Chappell was employed in this school through the year. It was divided into two terms, eight weeks in summer and twelve in the winter. There were five members the first term and ten the second. This teacher exerted herself unweariedly for the interests of the school, and the closing examination showed the good results of her labors. If this teacher would make a more practical application of the principles taught, and not confine her classes so closely to the text-books, still better results would attend her efforts.

DISTRICT NO. 12. Twenty-seven weeks comprised the school year of this district, divided into three terms. The summer and fall terms were taught by Miss Alma A. Bragg, of Alstead. There were eighteen pupils in summer and twenty-one in the fall. Miss Bragg was not a stranger in this school, having been employed in the winter of 1877-8. She is unassuming in her deportment, but a diligent worker in the school-room. The school always appeared orderly. At the closing examination it was apparent that their daily tasks had been carefully performed. The winter term was under the instruction of Miss Hattie A. Hildreth, of Bellows Falls, Vt., a graduate of the High School in that place under Prof. Ward. She is a good scholar and a thorough instructor. The correct and ready answers in the various classes showed good evidence of the careful training she had given them. A little lack in discipline is our only criticism. This school is poorly furnished with text-books, which want was partially supplied by the committee.

DISTRICT NO. 13. This school has been in session eighteen and two-fifths weeks, divided into two terms, eight in the autumn and ten and two-fifths in the winter. The first term was successfully managed by Miss Flora A. Willard, of Langdon, who had charge of the school in No. 6 last year. She succeeded in winning their love, and they learned well under her instruction.

Mr. Robert Herrick, of Manchester, a member of the senior class at Dartmouth College, was employed in the winter. This was his first experience in the teacher's chair. Entering upon untried ground, he moved cautiously at first. But he soon "got the hang of the school-house," and discharged his duties creditably to himself and to the satisfaction of his patrons. Good progress was made in all the studies pursued. We think he advanced the interests of the school as much as the average veteran teacher would have done. A few terms' experience will render him an efficient instructor.

DISTRICT NO. 14. The school year of this district comprised twenty-two and three-fifths weeks, divided into two terms, taught by two teachers, Miss M. A. Pierce and Mr. Z. L. Babbitt, both of Londonderry, Vt. Miss Pierce was employed nine and three-fifths weeks in the summer with fourteen scholars, Mr. Babbitt thirteen weeks in the winter, with sixteen scholars. The school days of each term went by smoothly, no event occurring to cause even a ripple. The scholars at all times appeared studious and orderly. Each study pursued received its due share of attention. Average improvement was made each term, and general satisfaction given.

GENERAL REMARKS.

In making up a general report from the brief we have kept through the year, we may truthfully say that, as a whole, the schools have been an improvement on those of the previous year. Not that they have been in all respects as successful as we could wish, still, it is encouraging to feel that we are living in an age of progress. Not content to do as well as our predecessors have done, we should aim to do better. Imitate their best efforts and avoid their errors.

With one or two exceptions (which were noticed in the special report), the schools have been harmonious, teachers have been faithful in the discharge of their duties, pupils have been orderly and studious. Nevertheless, there are many obstacles in the way of securing the best results in our public schools. Prominent among these is a lack of numbers, a scarcity of material to work with in some of the districts. Collected in little squads of from three to seven, somewhere by the roadside, in an inconvenient, unattractive, ill-furnished school room, it is impossible to awaken an interest in the branches taught to the degree that could be done in a school of thirty scholars, in a convenient, attractive, well furnished school room, while the expense of running the small school is nearly four times that of the one of ordinary size. To illustrate: Taking the average attendance in No. 6, the past year, it has cost \$1.45 per week for each scholar; while in No. 12 it has cost \$0.42 per week for each scholar, and in No. 4, \$0.45 per week for each scholar. It would seem that to secure for our children the best advantages possible from the appropriations made for school purposes, is of sufficient importance to engage the serious attention of every citizen of the town on this subject.

There is a lack of text-books in some of the schools. A few have been furnished to indigent children. One change has been made in text-books during the year. Harper's Geography has been introduced, and the old ones taken out.* We found in several schools a number of different books on the same subject. In one school there were four geographies, by as many different authors. Some of them were in use in the schools thirty years ago. Had you asked a pupil studying one of those books what route he would take and by what conveyance he would accomplish the journey from Boston to San Francisco, answering from the best knowledge gained from his geography, he would have said, "In a sailing vessel around Cape Horn, or in an emigrant wagon across the Rocky Mountains." Whenever a change is made in any text-book, it should be done in every school, the old book taken out, and none except the one introduced used. Every school should be furnished with some books of reference, particularly an unabridged dictionary. If the books used in the schools could be purchased and owned by the town, scholars would be better supplied, and the expense very much lessened, as the same books would then be used by several successive classes.

Another serious obstacle in the way of securing the best results in some of the schools, is the plan adopted by some parents of removing their children from school for some trivial wrong which they think their child has suffered, or when the teacher's method of conducting the school does not coincide with their own views. The teacher's task is an arduous one. There are many perplexing things as well as pleasant ones attending it, and the teachers, like all other individuals, are liable to commit errors, even when they are laboring conscientiously to do that which they think is for the best interest of the school. Now, we say if parents would make themselves acquainted with the teacher's work by frequent visits to the school-room, learn its faults, if there are any, and en-

deavor to correct them by a friendly word of advice, nine cases in ten the fault would be remedied and the school a success.

Prudential committees also should feel the responsibility of their trust, and aim to secure the services of the best teachers—those who have qualified themselves for the work, and, if possible, those who intend to follow the profession. Then, if one without experience is employed, the desire to establish a good reputation will be an incentive to successful effort; while those who have made a good record will labor to keep it untarnished.

When we consider the fact that a very large majority of the citizens of the country are graduates of the common schools, and that a large portion of the children who are to become citizens in the future will graduate at the same institutions, is it not important that the standard of these schools should be raised as high as possible, that those who go out from them shall not only be intelligent, but fitted to become good citizens?

Look at the frequent and startling disclosures of dishonesty and crime which the public press puts before the country almost daily—of embezzlements by dishonest clerks, cashiers who have proved defaulters, treasurers who have appropriated the public money to private uses, and it becomes a very grave question how to remedy this growing evil. We believe the remedy lies mainly in the education of the rising generation. Let the shaping and development of *character* as well as that of *mind* become a part of the work of teachers. Instead of devoting the whole time to arithmetic, geography and the different sciences, consider occasionally the different questions of *honor*, *truthfulness*, *honesty* and *justice*. These cornerstones of character should be firmly laid in the public school. Instil into the mind of every boy and girl, both by example and precept, those principles which combine to form a noble character, and in less than a decade crime will decrease and dishonesty become unpopular.

There can be no objection to such training. There is nothing sectarian in it, neither in religion or politics. Every person inside of the churches and all outside of them are of the same mind in desiring to see boys and girls grow up, honest, truthful, and imbued with a spirit of equal justice, and all political parties desire the same thing for their children, though they are words which can seldom be found in the vocabulary of any political party of the present day. With the hope that something may have been said in this rambling talk that shall improve the condition of our schools, this report is
Respectfully submitted.

S. H. PORTER,
Town Superintending Committee.

ROLL OF HONOR.

NUMBER OF SCHOLARS NEITHER ABSENT NOR TARDY.

Dist. No. 3. *Minnie Wetherbee, Walter Wetherbee, *Ivus Wetherbee, *Edward Kidder, *Bennie Kidder, *Walter Wightman, Fred. Prentiss.

Dist. No. 4. Bertha Ramsay, Julia W. Mellish, Helen M. Guild, Sylvia M. Guild, *Norman P. Guild.

Dist. N. 5. Nellie M. Graves, *Walter E. Graves, Carrie S. Watkins, Willie B. Britton.

Dist. No. 6. Albert E. Webster.

Dist. No. 8. Charlie H. Laware, Winnie S. Kingman, Gertie M. Towne, Mary D. Laware, Mary E. Kingman, Sarah W. Kingman.

Dist. No. 9. Adelma F. Fletcher, *Emma L. Titus, Lillie E. Heald, Albert H. Hall, Bennie Hall.

Dist. No. 10. *Percy L. Hall, Clara B. Houghton, Mary L. Houghton, Geo. L. Houghton, Algernon E. Houghton, Emma A. Houghton, Annie R. Foster, Florence J. Foster, Katie M. Tiffany, Everett L. Houghton.

Dist. No. 11. Carlie F. Thayer, Eddie A. Thayer.

Dist. No. 12. Fred. J. Ellis, *Willie H. Lovell, Herbert E. Knight.

Dist. No. 14. Lizzie Angier, *Harry Brown, Thos. Quinton.

* Not absent two terms.

TABLE No. 1.

SUMMER AND FALL SCHOOLS, 1879.

DISTRICTS.	2	2	3	4	4	5	6	6	7	8	8	9	10	10	11	12	12	13	14
Length of school in weeks,	11	16	7	10	8	8	10	10	8	8	11	10	10	8	10	24	8	8	9.6
Wages of teachers per month,	36	40	20	24	24	24	20	20	24	18	20	18	26	16	18	23	20	12	
Number of scholars four years old and over,	60	23	14	16	22	11	3	5	7	12	11	6	18	5	18	21	13	14	
Number of scholars over sixteen,	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	4	5	1	1	3	0	
Number of tardinesses,	6	1	2	15	0	2	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	5	8	1	3	13	
Number not absent,	7	1	6	0	5	3	1	0	0	5	1	5	5	0	1	3	0	2	
Number not tardy,	53	22	4	6	22	9	0	0	7	10	8	6	18	1	10	20	10	1	
Number neither absent nor tardy,	7	1	6	0	5	3	1	0	0	5	1	5	5	0	1	1	0	2	
Number of visits by Superintending Com.,	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
Number of visits by Prudential Com.,	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Number of visits by all others,	-	-	9	15	23	15	19	20	14	14	11	22	4.5	4.1	19	13	20	4	
Average attendance,	45.5	15.1	13	13.5	19	8	2.89	4.05	86	94	92	83	16.2	80	16.5	16.5	12.2	11	
Average per cent. of attendance,	85	85	95	93	95	88	94	85	86	94	92	83	95	80	94	91	92	80	

TABLE No. 2.

WINTER SCHOOLS, 1879-80.

DISTRICTS,	3	4	5	9	10	11	12	13	14
Length of school in weeks,	14	12	12	11	10.8	12	9	10.4	13
Wages of teachers per month,	25	30	28	24	29.60	30	25	28	20
Number of scholars four years old and over,	16	19	14	12	19	10	17	12	16
Number of scholars over sixteen,	8	2	4	4	5	4	2	4	1
Number of tardinesses,	8	24	0	15	12	8	3	0	25
Number not absent,	6	1	2	1	6	2	2	0	2
Number not tardy,	13	10	14	1	7	2	14	12	2
Number neither absent nor tardy,	6	1	2	1	6	2	2	0	2
Number of visits by Superintendent Com.,	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Number of visits by Prudential Com.,	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Number of visits by all others,	54	7	22	31	40	2	7	44	0
Average attendance,	14.67	16	11.7	10.5	17.9	9	13.6	10.2	12.9
Average per cent. of attendance,	94	90	89	94	95	90	90	85	76

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE, FOR DISTRICT, NO. 1.

In conformity with the requirement of the statute and with a time-honored custom, your committee herewith submit their annual report. They have nothing especially new or startling to communicate, but believe that, in spite of all drawbacks, they may say that there has been a fair degree of success in the several departments committed to their care.

That there is room for improvement none can be more conscious than they. That there is need of greater interest on the part of parents and children, and of more thorough devotion to the work in hand on the part of teachers and committees, we are constrained to admit. But, after all that may be said of the imperfections in the machinery made use of in seeking the attainment of an ideal standard in this matter of education, we are confident that the results actually reached are worth far more than they cost.

PRIMARY SCHOOL. During the spring term this department was under the care of Miss Mary L. Aldrich who had taught here successfully for several previous terms. The scholars made good progress under her instruction, and the discipline was good. But for reasons which will appear hereafter, it was thought best by the prudential committee to promote her to the Intermediate School at the opening of the fall term.

Miss Jenny M. Ball was selected as her successor. She entered upon her work with zeal and interest, and has met with a fair degree of success. In addition to her other qualifications, she has a natural love for children, which enabled her at once to get the good-will of her pupils. In a school of this grade this is indispensable to the highest success. Yet there is an element of danger in it which must ever be guarded against in order to secure the best results. There must be efficient discipline as well as kindly feeling. Your committee thought that at times there was need of more attention to this point, and believed that with firmness and discretion such discipline could have been successfully applied without losing the manifest advantages of the tender and sympathetic interest in the child's welfare. We have been inclined, however, to attribute any deficiencies in this direction to a lack of previous experience in teaching; especially as Miss B.'s second term was more satisfactory in this respect than the first. If she should continue in the school we think she would do well to give special attention to this point, and draw the reins a little tighter upon the recalcitrant elements which inevitably show themselves in any considerable company of noisy, restless children. The school appeared well at the closing examinations and had evidently been patiently trained. The parents generally have been well satisfied with the teacher's work.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL. Mr. Rollin W. Sparhawk, who had taught this school so successfully the previous year, was again placed in charge at the opening of the spring term. After continuing about two weeks, however, he suddenly sickened and died, much lamented not only by his pupils, but by our citizens generally. He had rendered efficient service to the scholars of this school, and will long be remembered as a kindly and patient instructor of children and youth.

Mr. Frank E. Benjamin, of Alstead, was engaged to fill the vacancy thus caused. Mr. B. passed a good examination, and had taught several terms in other parts of

the town. But he somehow failed to win the respect and good-will of the scholars, and did not seem to understand how to apply himself to the practical work of teaching. It was therefore found inadvisable to continue him in charge after the close of his first term.

As already stated, Miss Mary L. Aldrich, of the Primary School, was promoted to this department, and continued as teacher through the remainder of the year. It was confidently felt that Miss A. had the qualifications needed to insure success in bringing this school into proper subjection, and that the change would be advantageous to all concerned. So far as relates to the advancement of the pupils in their studies, we think that the teacher is deserving of much credit. The school has generally appeared well when visited by your committee, and the examinations have been creditable to teacher and scholars. We must make some qualification of these remarks in reference to the classes in spelling. The scholars have fallen into some very bad habits in this department of their school-work. Often, without stopping to pronounce the words, or distinctly to enunciate the syllables, they would rush forward as if in great haste to reach the end. The result was such as to leave upon the mind of the hearer no distinct impression, except that of a complete jumble of sounds. Your committee believe that distinct *enunciation* is one of the essential parts of good spelling, as it is of good reading. They feel that if proper stress is laid upon the former, it will be a great help to the pupil's progress in the latter. But if the bad habits to which we have alluded are suffered to continue without check, they will eventually produce their legitimate fruit in hasty and careless reading. In regard to the discipline, we may say that, while the order has generally been good, we feel that in a few instances Miss A. has been unwise and indiscreet, leading some parents to withdraw their children from the school, and weakening her moral authority over those who remained. Hoping that the excellences of which we have spoken may be perpetuated, and that the

evils of which we have complained may be averted in future terms, we pass on to note some signs of progress in the

HIGH SCHOOL. This department has been for ten years under the care of Mr. Curtis R. Crowell. So long a term of service is, of itself, indicative of faithful and earnest work, as well as of judicious methods. Your committee believe that the work of the past year in this school is unsurpassed in value by that of any previous year. In the spring and winter terms the number of scholars was about the same as it has usually been at those seasons of the year. But from a variety of causes the fall term was much larger; so that the prudential committee engaged Miss Nora Ball to act as assistant for a part of each day.

Mr. Crowell wins the respect and confidence of his pupils by his earnest endeavors to help them to help themselves. He teaches them to think earnestly and patiently upon the principles involved in every step, so that they may be able to give an intelligent and thorough explanation of their work. Under his training they are not encouraged to jump at conclusions, but rather to reach them by clear and careful analysis.

This method is not so showy as those which depend mainly upon the scholar's native intuitions. It gives no opportunity for one, on public examination days, to make it appear that he knows much more than he really does. But, on the other hand, it prepares the young much more effectually and thoroughly for practical life. If a scholar is naturally dull, it tends to unfold his faculties, and will bring him in the end to the results which will be of the greatest possible service to him. For people who are aiming at substance rather than show, we feel that this careful and thorough training is the most satisfactory. If the progress made is not so rapid as is apparent under some other methods, we may feel confident that it *is* progress. "*Slow and sure*" is a good motto for parents and teachers to adopt, in the intellectual training of the young.

With so much to commend, we feel that we ought to say that, in our judgment, the value of the work would be greatly enhanced by a more systematic arrangement of classes, and greater regularity in the times of recitation. It would tend to make scholars feel, not only the importance of being prepared, but also of being prepared at the *right time*, for unfolding the principles in the lessons assigned.

We have thus endeavored to give a just estimate of the work done in the several schools under our care during the year now closed. In those points where we have felt obliged to offer criticism, it has been from a sense of duty to the district, and with a view to promoting the highest efficiency and strength of our school system. It has not, surely, been a pleasant duty for us to perform. But if it shall lead in any respect to new and improved methods in the work of education, we shall feel that our effort has not been in vain.

Respectfully submitted,

William Brown,	}	Supt. Sch.
Harriet A. Porter,		Com. for
Katie J. Foster,		Dist. No. 1.

Walpole, March 2, 1880.

TABLE NO. 3.

DISTRICT NO. 1, 1879-80.

	Spring Term.			Fall Term.			Winter Term.		
	High School.	Intermediate.	Primary.	High School.	Intermediate.	Primary.	High School.	Intermediate.	Primary.
Length of school in weeks,	10	9.4	10	12	12	12	12	12	12
Wages of male teachers per month,	68	32		68	36	32	68	36	32
Wages of female teachers per month,			-			-			-
Number of scholars over four years old,	33	32		36	50	32	40	41	33
Average attendance,	28	29		32	40	29	35	34	27
Percentage of daily attendance,	85	93		95	82	94	91	83	90
Number of scholars between four and sixteen,	17	32		36	33	31	89	13	32
Number of scholars over sixteen,	9	0		0	18	1	0	0	1
Number of tardinesses,	8	46		5	32	42	13	11	33
Number not absent,	2	3		8	1	6	2	4	6
Number not tardy,	26	21		31	37	22	29	39	21
Number not absent nor tardy,	2	3		8	1	6	0	4	6
Number of visits by Superintending School Committee;	2	2		7	3	6	7	3	7
Number of visits by Prudential Committee,	0	0		0	0	1	1	0	0
Number of visits by others,	28			37	30	27		24	12

REPORT OF THE TOWN LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

There have been added to the library by purchase during the past year 98 volumes. 3 volumes were presented by the Department of Agriculture, and 1 volume by Col. A. H. Bellows. The following volumes of valuable magazines presented have been strongly bound and placed upon the shelves :

38 vols.	Littell's Living Age,	by Wm. P. Mason,
21 "	Harpers' Monthly,	" B. P. Owen,
5 "	Every Saturday,	" Wm. P. Mason,
2 "	North American Review,	" Reading Room,
2 "	Popular Science Monthly,	" " "

making in all an addition of 170 volumes. The usefulness and popularity of the library have continued and perhaps increased. During the ensuing year we would recommend that the set of Harpers' Monthly be completed if it can be done at a reasonable expense.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

Cash on hand as per last report,	\$ 2 82
" rec'd of town appropriation, 1878,	100 00
" " " " 1879,	100 00
	<hr/> \$202 82
Paid for covering-paper,	\$ 4 88
" freight on books,	70
" G. H. Tilden & Co., binding and repairs,	57 06
" C. C. Davis, books purchased,	114 00
Cash on hand	26 18
	<hr/> \$202 82

J. G. Bellows,	}	Committee.
George Aldrich,		
Curtis R. Crowell,		

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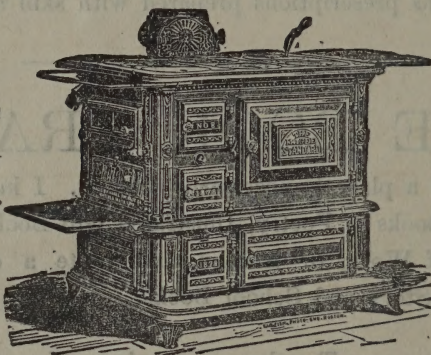
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